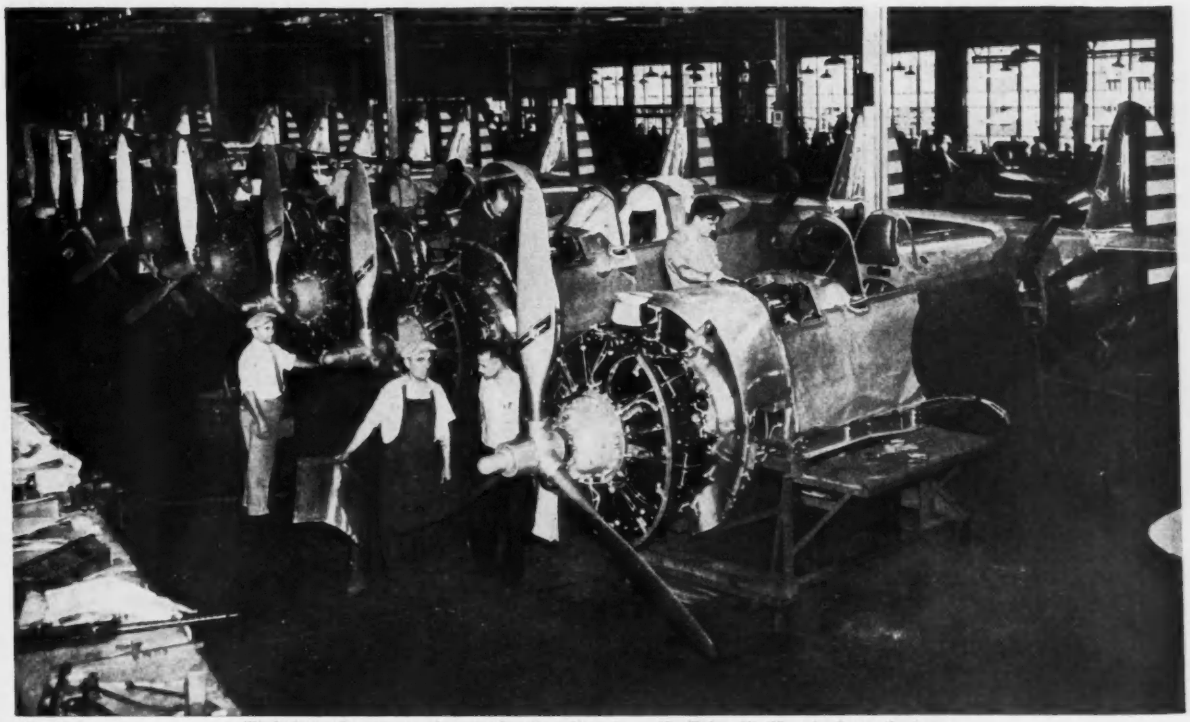
# Volunteer Firemen

DECEMBER 1939

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL
60 Batterymarch Street Boston, Massachusetts



*Pictures, Inc.*

Fighting planes on the production line in a Buffalo, N. Y., airplane factory

## FIRES MAY COME TO WARTIME INDUSTRY

WHILE the war in Europe is 3,000 miles away, the voices of Hitler and other war-mongers may be heard via radio in any home in the land. The *Atlantic Clipper,* flying a regular schedule, makes Europe only a few hours, instead of days, distant.

Such ever-narrowing barriers of time and distance are a reminder that we are not so far away that the war cannot affect us here.

One out of every ten of the readers of this issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN is a Canadian fireman. Canada is at war, and Canadian fire departments are already taking stock of their resources and trying to determine their part.

The United States has repealed its embargo act and is "in the war" in the sense that it may now make and furnish goods for belligerents. The crucial factor in this war will be the ability of one set of belligerents to keep supplies of machines and foods away from the other. Such a war may be decided by actions a long way from the battle front. For example, a blow at airplanes being built in a factory is as effective as shooting them down in aerial combat. Every country grain elevator is a part of the process whereby the world gets its daily bread. Thus Europe's war may reach into many American communities, bringing fire departments additional problems.

The N.F.P.A.'s information service is widely used by members. The most common of current inquiries relates to chemicals, explosives and methods of fire-making which may be employed by *saboteurs,* in order that these may be guarded against.

The exact methods employed to set fires probably are of little practical importance. Fires can be readily started by a wide variety of means. Substances for the purpose are available to every one. Industrial activity without good housekeeping may cause more fire losses than will come from those deliberately set. The fire department which, through frequent inspections of important properties sees that housekeeping is not neglected, will probably more effectively prevent fires than the one that looks for phosphorus bombs.

Plants which fear sabotage should first increase the use of well qualified watchmen. They should organize a private fire brigade. Automatic and manual fire alarms can be quickly installed in any valuable building. And the fundamentals of fire protection will be found to be just as sound now as ever: (a) as little burnable material as possible subjected to destruction in a single fire, (b) limitation of areas and heights of buildings, (c) use of fire walls, stairway enclosures, fire doors and shutters to retard the spread of fires and (d) automatic sprinklers backed by substantial water supplies.

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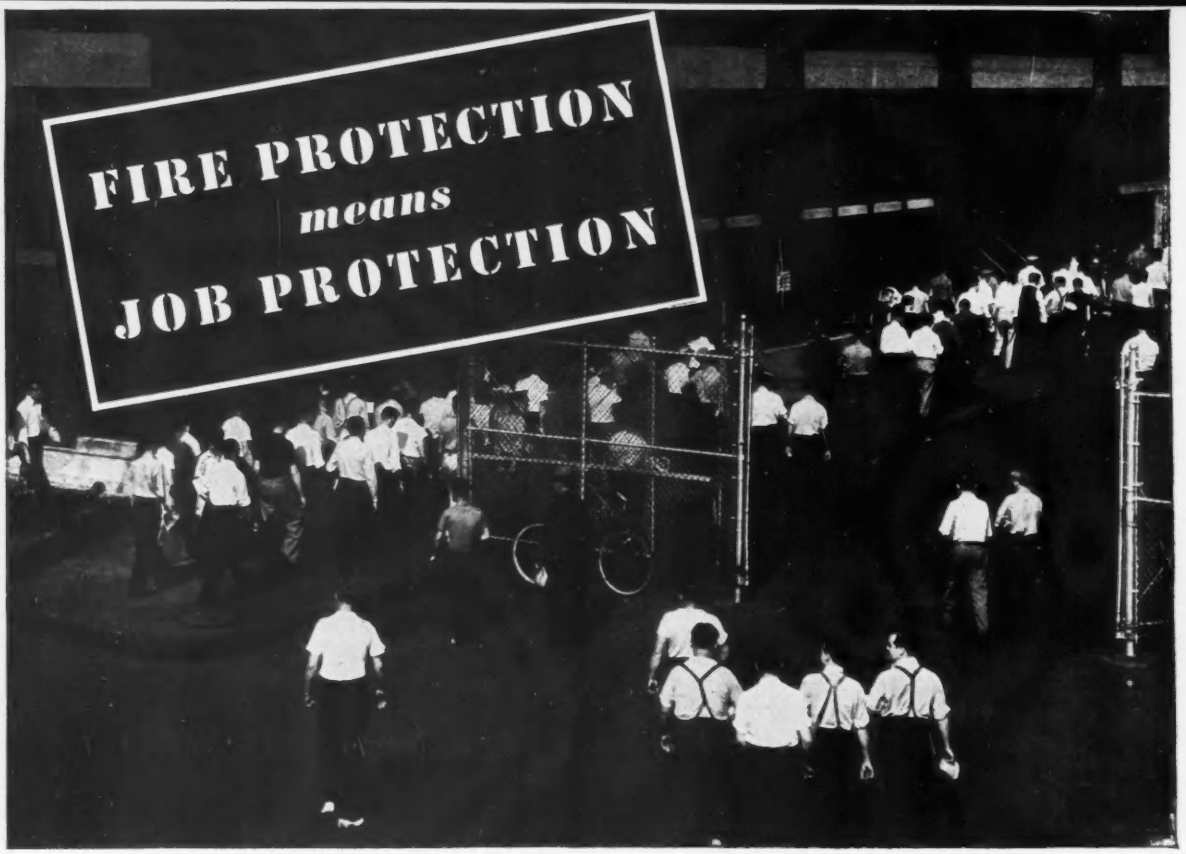


Among fire's far-reaching effects one of the most tragic is unemployment. "Fired by fire," workers and their families suffer want and privation. Their loss of purchasing power soon is felt throughout the community. And such lay-offs often are permanent, for 43% of the business establishments that burn never resume business!

It is a matter of social responsibility as well as self-interest for management to provide the best possible safeguards against business interruption by fire. Since most large-loss fires are traceable to belated discovery and delayed alarms, effective protection requires means for detecting fire and summoning the fire department *automatically.*

A.D.T. provides two such services: *Sprinkler Supervisory & Waterflow Alarm Service;* and, for unsprinklered properties, *Aero Automatic Fire Alarm Service.* These services are available with Central Station Supervision in 350 cities and towns throughout the country; elsewhere, they may be installed with direct-wire connections to the local fire department. Write for free descriptive booklets.

**A.D.T. AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTING AND REPORTING SYSTEMS**

*Controlled Companies of* **AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.** *155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.*

CENTRAL STATION OFFICES IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE U. S.

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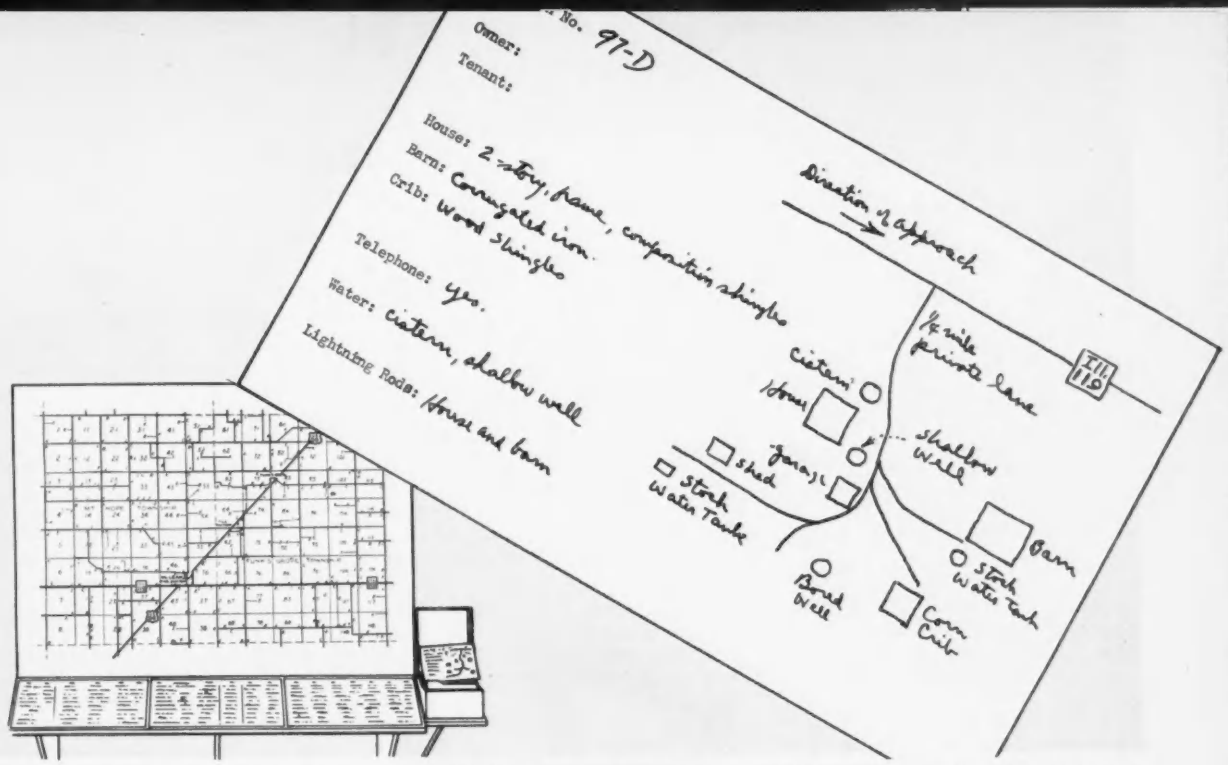
*Electric Protection Services*

AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP

A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION




# CATALOGING FARM PROPERTY

By Chief Dan McFarland
Mt. Hope-Funk's Grove Fire Protection District, McLean County, Illinois

IN the country, water supply doesn't come in the form of hydrants sticking up like thumbs where anyone can find them. The farm's chief water supply may be anything from a creek behind the barn to a stock watering tank. If the department doesn't know where it is, important time will be wasted.

On the farm is a maze of different buildings and private lanes connecting them which may be hard to find, especially at night. Advance knowledge of the farm layout may be an important factor, not only in locating water supplies and knowing the lanes that lead to them, but in planning the attack on the fire.

In our district we fight farm fires with the advantage of knowing this data. We catalog and map each individual farm in a way which uncovers every detail of fire fighting importance.

When the members of our department went out to spot farms and rural homes for our large map and directory they took with them notebooks in which they made rough sketches of each individual property. Allowing a page for each farm they would draw a line to represent the main road and then indicate the relative positions of private farm roads, buildings and their uses, and all possible water supplies. They always called at the farm house to explain to the owner or tenant just what the fire department proposed to do for them. This personal contact won the good will of the farmer. He would often point out water supply features which might otherwise have passed unnoticed. Farm water supplies take so many different forms and vary so from season to season and even day to day that it pays to talk to some one who is familiar with the individual property. There are cisterns, open wells, bored wells, stock watering tanks, elevated tanks, reservoirs, creeks, irrigation ditches and many other differing supplies that the fire department should take into account.

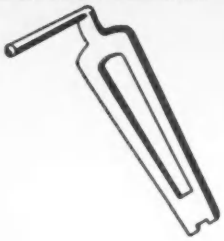
Occasionally an owner would brag to the firemen of some good water supply. Investigation would often show he had exaggerated its protection. Sometimes it was beyond the reach of our hose lines or across impassable ground. Sometimes its condition varied too greatly with the weather. Many creeks become too small for effective supply during dry periods and much time can be saved by not trying to use them during such weather.

A few farms were close enough together to admit mutual use of water supplies. Our firemen always looked into that possibility.

At the end of each day's survey the data which our men had assembled were transposed to cards 5 by 8 in. and the cards filed in a box according to section number. To lighten the routine of copying we worked out a key of colors and shapes which allowed us to read the cards at a glance. We now have the entire system in operation and feel that it is a good one for a department of our size.

Keeping it up to date is a simple matter. Our rural mail carriers tell us when some one moves and we correct our records accordingly. We seldom fail to get wind of new buildings and water supply construction on farms either through the mail carriers or through the farmers themselves.

Here is the way we go to fires. We receive a telephone call saying that Jim Farmer's house is on fire. We find the section number indexed under his name in the directory which is on a shelf under the main map. We know at once from our district map where to head for. We get the card for the property from the box and this is taken on the truck along with an 8½ x 11 in. copy of the district map. On the way to the fire we plan the attack. We note what water supplies we might use first and what turns in the farm roads we will have to take to get our pumper down to them. When we have finished the run there is no hesitation. We go right to work. Promptness is an efficient fire fighting tool. We feel that ours has saved much property in the Mt. Hope-Funk's Grove District.



Bed Key

# THE HISTORY OF

# *Salvage Work*

House Plate

By Warren Y. Kimball

SALVAGE work was one of the earliest of man's efforts to control fire waste. For many years the early settlers on this continent had little money to spare with which to buy fire fighting equipment, had such been available. With only crude ladders and leather buckets to depend upon for fire fighting in most communities, it was natural that the salvaging of contents of a burning building should receive much of the attention when fires occurred. Fires were frequent, too, in those days of open hearths, candles and widespread use of wooden shingle roofs.

The first salvage equipment was not like that used by modern department salvage crews. Standard equipment of a fire fighter then included a large bag. At the scene of a fire this was quickly filled with any valuables that might be carried to safety from the burning building. The other important salvage tool was a bed key. In most humble homes the family bedstead was the most prized and valuable article of furniture. It was a massive affair and a special key was needed before it could be taken apart. The salvage crew had done a successful job if they got it outside before the roof fell in.

When more powerful fire fighting equipment came along there was often more chance to save the actual burning building. Therefore, actual fire fighting received more and more of the attention of fire fighting crews. In the larger cities separate companies were organized to specialize in the salvage work. As the fire departments were getting more efficient it less frequently became necessary to remove the contents from the burning building. It became far more necessary to prevent the destruction by water of the contents which escaped being burned. Therefore, someone devised the idea of a wagon loaded with tarred canvas covers which could be spread over goods on floors below a fire. This was particularly important in warehouses and mercantile buildings where much of the damage was often caused by water leaking through the floors. From these first covers came the familiar word "tarpaulin." The tarred covers were sticky in hot weather and otherwise not so satisfactory as the modern canvas or rubber salvage covers.

IN North America and in England many of the earliest fire departments were maintained by insurance companies to protect their own policy holders. Each house had a distinctive fire marker so that the fire fighters could tell whether that owner was insured with them. If not they let the house burn. Until the year 1865 the fire insurance companies maintained the fire brigade in London, England. Along with the fire fighting work, salvage work was often started under the initiative of the insurance offices. In a few cities salvage work at fires is still done by fire insurance patrol organizations. As rapidly as possible, however, the fire departments are taking over this work. It is natural that this should be so, for salvage is of tremendous value to all citizens whether insured or not. The fire department can do a more thorough job, for its apparatus gets to every fire, whereas an insurance patrol cannot possibly maintain enough stations to cover more than the congested sections of a city.

Modern salvage work in fire departments means much more than just the spreading of covers to prevent water damage. It starts with the proper use of water at fires. Fire colleges and training schools rightly stress the importance of not throwing water unnecessarily. An average fire stream throws about 250 gallons, or *one ton* of water a minute. In many cases a mere dash for ten to thirty seconds will kill all the fire within reach of the nozzle until further opening up of hidden fire can be accomplished. This is one of the reasons that the use of 1½-inch fire hose is spreading so rapidly in both large and small cities.

Some may be interested to know under the present practice, just what salvaging equipment is needed, and how much salvage work an average fire department can do. Of course the larger cities can maintain separate salvage companies. This may not be economically possible or desirable in smaller cities although, if there is a rescue or emergency squad, it can often carry considerable salvage equipment. If salvage work depended upon special outfits there would be few places that could

The day of the kind of fire fighting shown on the left is gone. Firemen no longer wade into burning store buildings and shovel every movable object into the street. On the right is an example of modern fire fighting. This candy store was able to open its doors for business soon after the fire. Loss of contents was held to a small figure. The fire department that did this won the respect of the proprietor and the community.

afford the advantages of this important protection. Fortunately, however, the big bulk of all salvage work can readily be done by any ordinary engine or ladder company crew. The N.F.P.A. Specifications for Municipal Fire Apparatus recommend that every pumper carry two 18 by 12 foot salvage covers and that every ladder truck carry four such covers and other essential salvage tools.

This means that necessary salvage work can be done at every fire. While practice will improve the technique of handling salvage covers, any crew of firemen can easily spread them.

As an example of what can be done, take a common attic fire in a dwelling. If an engine company has two salvage covers it can save the contents of two rooms. Where one cover is available the piano and other living room furniture can be saved from damage. Perhaps the second cover will be used to protect a bedroom under the fire. Cover work usually starts as near the fire or as close under the fire as possible and works downward ahead of the water.

To cover a bedroom the best practice is to place the contents of the closet, wall pictures, and other breakables on the bed. The floor rug is rolled up and placed lengthwise on top of the bed as a ridgepole. All other furniture in the room is grouped around the bed in the center of the room so one cover will cover it all. Two men with a little practice should be able to cover an entire room in not much over a minute's time. Experienced salvage crews take under thirty seconds for this job.

These details are given to show what can be done with only two covers in an ordinary dwelling fire. Covers fortunately are not very expensive. Any fire department can afford to have them and use them. In mercantile fires or larger buildings the four covers which should be carried by the ladder truck together with those carried on the pumpers will enable almost as creditable a salvage job to be done as would be done with a special salvage truck. Covers should be placed over counters and wall stock shelving.

There may be some fire chiefs who are reluctant to begin modern salvage work in their departments due to the mistaken notion that it would require additional men. It is not necessary to add to any department to make a good beginning at salvage work. Some of the smallest departments are doing the best salvage work to help keep down their losses. At an average fire only one or two hose streams are needed. Usually there are more companies and men than are needed for these hose streams, called to a fire as a precautionary measure. These men can be used to spread covers and do other salvage work. After ladders are raised men from the ladder crew can often be spared for this work.

In small departments, volunteers arriving late can do the salvage work. It is well known that an ordinary ceiling will hold water for a while. This gives the salvage crews several minutes to work after the hose streams are placed in operation before water reaches the lower floors. If a building is burning like a bonfire, and requires a lot of hose streams, salvage covers will not be needed anyway. It is in the attic fire, the partition fire, and other types of fires which are smoky and slower burning that the fire department, no matter how small, has a chance to do effective salvage work. Citizens want their property protected from water damage at a fire. Any fire department can win friends through salvage work even if they can only start with two covers.

For those who want more complete information on this subject the N.F.P.A. has two booklets which should be very helpful. These have been prepared under the direction of The Committee on Salvaging Operations. One, called "Salvage," was written by Chief Frank C. McAuliffe of the Chicago Fire Insurance Patrols and an outstanding expert in this field. It gives full details on salvage work at fires. The other publication is entitled "Salvaging Operations." It covers the proper storage and handling of merchandise before and after fires and the effect of water and smoke on various stocks. As mentioned before, the N.F.P.A. Specifications for Municipal Fire Apparatus suggest the salvaging equipment which should be carried on ladder trucks including such items as squeegees for sweeping out water, sprinkler stoppers for temporarily shutting flow from sprinkler heads, and siphons for getting water out of basements without damaging the pumping engine.

To start salvage work effectively, the two big essentials are: care in using water at fires and at least two salvage covers at the scene of every fire. The other items can be added to the equipment gradually.

# FIRES FOR CHRISTMAS

Soon after you receive your copy of this issue, the annual plague of Christmas fires will be under way. Throughout the United States and Canada people will start bringing Christmas trees into their homes. In the south, fireworks stands will begin to open up for business. In both north and south, stores will be lavishly decorated and mobbed with people buying gifts.

The Christmas holidays are one of the busiest times of year for fire departments. Theirs is the responsibility of safeguarding the shoppers from the ever present danger of fire and panic. Fires in stores must be made impossible during the season when fire hazards are greatest. Packing materials and rubbish which accumulate more rapidly than at any other time of year must be disposed of promptly. Exits and aisles must be kept unobstructed, and exits must be properly marked. Decorations should be "fire proofed." First aid equipment should be within easy reach of all parts of the building.

There are many tips for home fire safety during the Christmas Holidays which firemen will want to pass on to the citizens in their communities. They will emphasize the fact that an evergreen tree, while relatively hard to ignite when it is growing from the moist ground, dries out and becomes a serious fire hazard in a house.

The tree must be set up firmly as far as possible from heat sources. It should never be placed where it might, if on fire, block an exit. It should be decorated only with asbestos, glass, and metal. The tree alone will make all the fire anyone would care to have in his house without the added fuel of paper, cotton snow and pyroxylin decorations.

Christmas is a season of unusually heavy use of electricity. Firemen should caution citizens to remove some of the load when fuses begin to blow, not bridge the fuses. The wide use of electric extension cords, Christmas tree lights, and lights in windows brings new electrical hazards to every home. Every citizen of your community should be cautioned against buying wiring not bearing the label of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Trees bearing lights should not be decorated with tinsel. It may cause a short circuit.

If there is a fire extinguisher in the home, it should be checked to make sure it will operate, and placed where it will be handy if the tree catches fire. A good measure of fire protection available in nearly every home is the garden hose. It can be connected to a faucet within reach of the tree and kept there as long as the tree is in the house. Home owners should be urged to learn the location of their nearest fire alarm box, or to post the telephone number of the fire department where it will be handy during an emergency.

# ANNUAL REPORTS

## Suggestions on Their Contents and Form

YOUR company or department will soon be getting out its annual report. You will want to send a copy to the mayor or governing body, to the newspapers, and to the presidents of civic organizations. Additional copies, enough so each member of the company or department may have one, are also nice to provide if you have facilities for printing or mimeographing. If you do so print or mimeograph your report, send one to the N.F.P.A.

It's a good idea to keep the report as simple as possible. This doesn't mean that you should skimp on the information you put in it. It does mean that you will want to put it in a form that will require a minimum of effort to produce and a minimum of study to understand. Keeping it simple will give you an opportunity to get it out soon after the end of the year. The value of the report is greatly enhanced if it appears promptly.

There are three important objects of an annual report. It must show complete statistics on the work of the department. When these statistics are published in the newspapers and studied by the municipal authorities the fire department will gain many new friends from those who have before shown little interest in the kind of fire protection they are getting.

A report should analyze the fire loss for the year. This is a service that the fire department owes to the public at large. If the individual citizen knows the fire causes which are most prevalent in his city he will be in a better position to put his shoulder to the work of preventing them.

The third important purpose of the annual report is to make recommendations for the improvement of city fire protection. If the department is supported from municipal funds, a request for new equipment will be given a lot of weight by actual fire statistics supporting its need. If the company is purely self-supporting it can still make recommendations for improving the local fire defenses. It can suggest such things as improvement in water supply, police cooperation with fire companies, and the installation or improvement of fire alarm systems. It can stimulate the passage of fire prevention ordinances and make many other constructive suggestions, depending on the individual case.

Four typewritten pages should be adequate for most fire department reports. Page one would be a letter of transmittal to the civil authority to whom the fire company is responsible. Page two would be the form containing statistics of the fire department. Public Administration Service, 1313 East 60th St., Chicago, Illinois, publishes letter size blanks which are adequate for combining the fire loss data for the year in an orderly and simple way. A reduced copy is shown in these columns. Blocks of fifty of these blanks may be had for only $1.25 each.

Section I of the blank classifies every run made by the department. Under section II are entered fires in buildings. Section III is valuable in showing the amount of work done by the department. Section IV shows the manpower of the department. Section V is arranged for listing fires in the different classes of buildings generally found in an average town served by a volunteer fire department. A column for statistics on fire department inspection work is provided in Section V so that the effect of inspections on the number of fires can be estimated.

When the blank is filled out, most of the work of preparing the annual report is done. However, there are many items which can be added to advantage on two additional sheets. It's a good idea to tell in the annual report some facts about the largest loss fires, to mention deaths and injuries due to fires, and to describe accidents to fire department apparatus.

A discussion of fire department inspection work should be included, describing the work that has been done and telling how the procedure may be improved. Investigation of fire causes is part of a fire company's job and should be covered in the report. An indication of the amount of public fire prevention education done by the department might be included by mention of the number of speeches made by firemen before clubs, schools, and other groups. In this connection some comment might be made on the type of cooperation received from the citizens.

Other fire department matters which might be mentioned are: the drill work done, the fire schools attended by members, and perhaps the financial statement of the company.

### STATISTICS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the Year Ending _____ 19__

Town of _____ State _____ Chief _____

Population Served _____ Area Served _____ Companies in Dep't. _____

| I. ALARMS AND FIRES | This Year | Last Year |
|---|---|---|
| No. of alarms | | |
| No. of fires | | |
| Classification of Fires: | | |
| In buildings | | |
| Brush or grass | | |
| Rubbish near buildings | | |
| Rubbish in vacant lots | | |
| Dumps | | |
| Miscellaneous fires outdoors | | |
| Vehicles in street | | |
| Calls Other Than Fires: | | |
| Rescue or emergency | | |
| Needless calls | | |
| Accidental alarms | | |
| False alarms | | |
| Out-of-Town Calls: | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Alarms | | |

| II. LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY | This Year | Last Year |
|---|---|---|
| Fire loss, total | | |
| Fire loss, per capita | | |
| Fire loss, per fire | | |
| Persons killed by fire | | |
| Persons injured by fire | | |

| III. EQUIPMENT USED | | |
|---|---|---|
| Feet of small line | | |
| Feet of 1½-inch hose | | |
| Feet of 2½-inch hose | | |
| Fires put out with hand extinguishers | | |
| Feet of ladders | | |
| Salvage covers spread | | |

| IV. PERSONNEL | | |
|---|---|---|
| Membership of Department | | |
| New Members appointed | | |
| Members dropped | | |
| Average response per alarm | | |

V. INSPECTIONS, FIRES, AND LOSSES BY OCCUPANCIES

| Occupancy | This Year | | | Last Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Inspections | Fires | Losses | Inspections | Fires | Losses |
| Dwellings, apartments | | | | | | |
| Barns, sheds, etc. | | | | | | |
| Retail stores | | | | | | |
| Government, institutional, amusement | | | | | | |
| Office buildings | | | | | | |
| Wholesale stores, warehouses | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing plants | | | | | | |
| Garages, filling stations | | | | | | |
| Lumber yards | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | | | |

Remarks: _____

# Volunteer Firemen

**Volume 6** **Number 12**
Published by the National Fire Protection Association, a voluntary non-profit organization, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston, Mass.
**Percy Bugbee** — **General Manager**
**Robert S. Moulton** — **Technical Secretary**
**Horatio Bond** — **Chief Engineer**
**Warren Y. Kimball** — **Fire Record Department**
**Strafford Wentworth** — **Associate Editor**

## December, 1939

ANNUAL short courses or "fire colleges" were held in 26 states during 1939. The list includes Vermont which held its first short course this year and Illinois and Iowa which held their fifteenth. But that is only a part of the story of firemen's training. . . . **Arkansas** State Fire College announces this month the establishment of regional fire schools in 17 cities. . . . **California's** program has the objective of getting permanent schools established in all fire departments. The annual report of Chief David F. Glines, State Fire Training Supervisor, shows 108 such schools established in 163 cities assisted by the 1938-1939 state program. . . . Chief Victor E. Roberts, retired, of the Denver Fire Department, has served this year as itinerant instructor in **Colorado**. . . . 1939 District Fire Schools, one-day sessions, were held during October in seven **Iowa** cities. . . . In July Captain V. A. Beam, Secretary, **Kentucky** Firemen's Association, was assigned as fire department instructor for the state, working under a special allowance provided by the governor's office. . . . The **Massachusetts** State Department of Education will shortly add to its vocational division an assistant supervisor of teacher-training for the public service occupations, one of whose major responsibilities will be the direction of the state training program for firemen. . . . Regional schools were held between June and September in eight **Minnesota** cities with the cooperation of the State Fire Marshal's office. . . . Chief C. A. Ehrich of Las Vegas is itinerant instructor for the State of **New Mexico** under a program of which Dean D. B. Jett of the State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts is director. . . . All but 5 of the 66 fire departments in Nassau County, **New York**, are enrolled in the county-wide training program. To the staff of two full-time instructors, working under the auspices of the county department of vocational education, will be added a third this winter. . . . **North Dakota** held its 5th annual program of one-day regional schools at 5 cities in July. . . . The First **Ontario** Extension Course for Firefighters was held October 25-28, at the University of Toronto. . . . Public Service Institute of **Pennsylvania** has announced for the 1939-1940 season that it will organize classes for firemen's groups, not over 30 in a class. Meetings will be held once every week for 15 weeks, 45 hours of instruction in all. During the first 6 months of 1939, 40 such classes were held attended by men from 91 departments. . . These are just a few of the fine programs now available. Few departments need go without training these days.

MEMBERSHIP in the Volunteer Firemen's Section is now 689 departments and 15,108 men. Last month 56 companies with 1,197 men renewed membership. The following 10 departments with 192 men are newly enrolled.

Arcadia Fire Department, Arcadia, California.

Del Paso-Robla Fire District, Del Paso Heights, California.

Washington Volunteer Fire Department, New Preston, Connecticut.

Fox Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Fox Lake, Illinois.

Armstrong Fire Department, Armstrong, Iowa.

Orchard Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Orchard Beach, Maryland.

P. E. Dannenman, Thomas A. Edison, Inc., West Orange, New Jersey.

Tennessee Valley Authority, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Draughon's Fire Department, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

Huntsville Fire Department, Huntsville, Ontario.

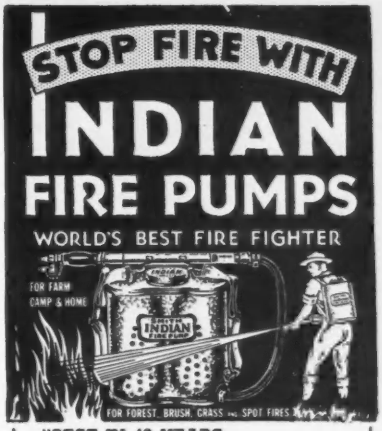
### A Problem Question FOR DECEMBER

*Suggested for discussion at company and department meetings this month*

97

What is a transformer vault and how would you fight a fire in one?

The answer to the problem question for November will be found on page 5.

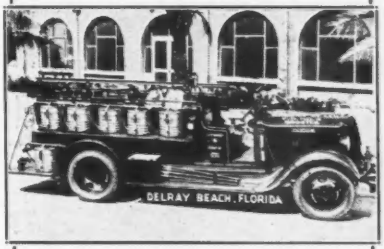



"BEST IN 40 YEARS OF FIRE-FIGHTING"

We use INDIAN FIRE PUMPS with great effectiveness on many different kinds of fires. I have put out 500 ft. of grass fire with one tank of clear water. After 40 years of fire fighting I can say I never saw such a valuable all 'round piece of equipment.

*George W. Smith,*
*Wakefield, R. I., Fire Dept.*

In addition to using INDIANS on all grass fires, many departments rely on them instead of the chemical type for spot, roof and chimney fires, overheated stoves, room and partition fires, rubbish fires, etc. No piece of equipment has the many uses of INDIAN FIRE PUMPS—the all purpose fire fighters.




*Fire truck of Delray Beach, Florida, fire department equipped with twelve INDIAN FIRE PUMPS, six on each side*

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## PYRENE PRIZE LETTER CONTEST

EACH month three cash awards are given jointly by the Pyrene Manufacturing Company of Newark, New Jersey, and VOLUNTEER FIREMEN to firemen who write the best letters telling of effective work done with approved fire extinguishers. The prizes are: first, $10.00; second, $3.00; and third, $2.00. To win one of the prizes does not require any fancy writing ability. If you know of a fire where good work was done with an extinguisher just tell the facts in your own way. Be sure to mention the type of extinguisher (carbon tetrachloride, foam, soda acid, etc.) used. It is not necessary to name the maker. The contest is open to members of fire departments including organized industrial brigades. Read the rules below. Next month perhaps your name will be among the prize winners.

### FIRST PRIZE—$10.00

HAROLD MONACO, *President*

Volunteer Fire Department

Newton Hamilton, Pennsylvania

**"Marvelous Feat Performed"**

One day last fall, a friend of mine was using a small kerosene stove to heat the bedroom of his sick wife. When the oil got low, he tried to refill the tank without first putting out the burner. The tank opening was very near the flame. He had hardly started pouring before the kerosene can exploded in his hand, and spread burning oil through the room. The bed on which lay the sick woman was ignited.

My friend helped his wife and baby daughter to safety, calling for help as he did so. A small boy spread the alarm and attracted the attention of a man in our department. Grabbing a 2½-gallon soda-acid extinguisher he made for the fire. By the time he got there it had spread widely and flames were coming from under the eaves.

Since the house depended on him, he dashed up stairs and started discharging the extinguisher on the fire. He had little hope at first, but in a few seconds the flames began to die fast. By the time the extinguisher was empty he had knocked them all down. Only glowing coals, which he later wet down with a bucket of water, remained of the dangerous fire.

This marvelous feat performed by a small extinguisher, certainly proved the value of such equipment. It is now considered a first line fire fighter by our citizens.

### SECOND PRIZE—$3.00

W. W. HAPGOOD

Harrison Fire Department

Harrison, Maine

**"Would Have Lost My Outfit"**

I ran a hot dog and hamburger stand on the Oxford County Fair Grounds last September. I had set up my tent opening day and was working on my gasoline stove which I used to heat the grid. Quite a lot of fuel escaped unnoticed through a leak in the supply line. When I lit the stove there was a flash and a gasoline fire involved the whole front of the tent.

Fortunately my car, in which I have mounted a 1-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher, was parked nearby. I dashed for it. My helper grabbed a pail of water and dumped it on the fire, but the water seemed only to spread the flames. When I got back with my extinguisher the fire was still burning fiercely. I let fly with the carbon tetrachloride and the fire melted away. Less than two dollars loss was done to my tent and equipment. If I hadn't had the extinguisher, I would have lost my whole outfit.

### THIRD PRIZE—$2.00

FRANK M. BROWN

Volunteer Fire Department

Springville, Utah

**Imagine What Could Have Happened**

One night at 11 o'clock, the siren screamed and the firemen rushed to a small frame home about ten blocks from the fire station. A man working night shift in a railroad signal tower just across the street had noticed a curtain and blind on fire in the window.

The chief drove the truck and was the first to arrive. He didn't wait for firemen to man the booster line, but plunged into the house with a 1½-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher. With it he had no trouble putting out the fire, though it had gotten a good start, and had already broken the window.

There was a young man asleep on a bed just a few feet from the window. He knew nothing of the danger he had been in until the chief woke him up and told him. Was a life saved or serious injury averted? My guess would be, yes.

### HONORABLE MENTION

CARL PAGE SWADLEY, Fire Department, Grand Prairie, Texas.

EDWARD VAVRINA, Fire Department, Bruno, Nebraska.

C. NORMAN ZEEK, Fire Department, Milton, New Jersey.

### CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants in the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest must be members of their local fire department.
2. Letters are to describe actual experiences where an approved fire extinguisher of any make has saved lives or property.
3. Trade names may be used but will be deleted in publication. Publishers reserve the right to edit winning letters to permit publication.
4. Each contestant automatically vouches for the truth of the facts presented from his own or others' experience.
5. Only one letter may be submitted each month.
6. Letters must be legibly written in ink or typewritten on white paper, one side only. Preference will be given to letters not over 250 words in length.
7. Letters received after the 8th of the month will be judged in following month's competition.
8. Monthly prizes in cash will be: 1st, $10.00; 2nd, $3.00; and 3rd, $2.00.
9. Address contest letters to Pyrene Prize Letter Contest, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

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## N. F. P. A. Membership

INDIVIDUAL membership in the National Fire Protection Association costs $10 per year. The membership plan for the Volunteer Firemen's Section is designed to give each fire company the advantages of N.F.P.A. membership. The fire company, as a member, receives at its headquarters a complete set of all regular N.F.P.A. literature, including the *Quarterly* magazine, as issued. In addition, as a special service to the Volunteer Firemen's Section, each fire company holding N.F.P.A. membership is entitled to have copies of the magazine VOLUNTEER FIREMEN sent to the home addresses of 20 firemen each month. If more than 20 firemen want to receive the magazine, an additional 50 cents should be sent in with the membership fee for each fireman in excess of 20 enrolled.

Because of the large amount of material mailed to members, not less than $10 can be accepted from any company.

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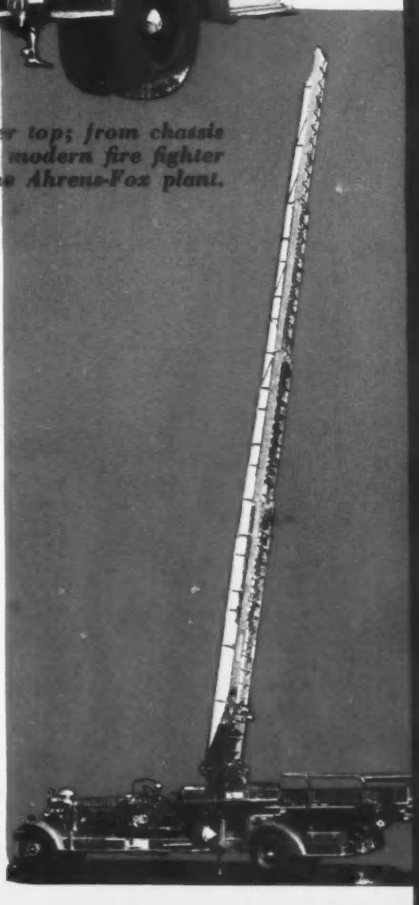

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